
DIGEST

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Mills

HB No. 195

Abstract: Changes the number of votes required to grant parole to offenders convicted of certain offenses under specified conditions.

Present law provides for the Board of Parole, the process for granting parole, and parole eligibility.

Present law provides that the board shall meet in a minimum of three-member panels at the adult correctional institutions on regular scheduled dates, not less than every three months. Three votes of a three-member panel shall be required to grant parole, or, if the number exceeds a three-member panel, a unanimous vote of those present shall be required to grant parole.

Proposed law provides that the parole board may grant parole with two votes of a three-member panel, or, if the number exceeds a three-member panel, a majority vote of those present if all of the following conditions are met:

- (1) The offender has not been convicted of a crime of violence or a sex offense or an offense which would constitute a crime of violence or a sex offense, regardless of the date of conviction.
- (2) The offender has not committed any disciplinary offenses in the 12 consecutive months prior to the parole eligibility date.
- (3) The offender has completed the mandatory minimum of 100 hours of pre-release programming.
- (4) The offender has completed substance abuse treatment as applicable.
- (5) The offender has obtained a GED credential, unless the offender has previously obtained a high school diploma or is deemed by a certified educator as being incapable of obtaining a GED credential due to a learning disability. If the offender is deemed incapable of obtaining a GED credential, the offender must complete at least one of the following: a literacy program, an adult basic education program, or a job skills training program.
- (6) The offender has obtained a low-risk level designation determined by a validated risk assessment instrument approved by the secretary of DPS&C.

(Amends R.S. 15:574.2(B), (C), (D), (E), and (F); Adds R.S. 15:574.2(G))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice to the original bill.

1. Removed provision granting parole for participation in a work release program.
2. Excluded offenders convicted of an offense which would constitute a crime of violence or a sex offense regardless of the date of conviction from proposed law.

House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill.

1. Made technical corrections.